



TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Annex 2:

TAFF Guide for Applicants – Expressions of Interest



This guide provides key information about the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Technical Assistance Financing Facility (TAFF) for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness. It is relevant for UCPM members and participating states, interested in responding to the Call for Expressions of Interest for TAFF. This guide provides a summary of TAFF objectives, activities, implementation arrangements, eligibility, procedures for allocating funding and approval of activities, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, as well as communications and visibility.

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List of acronyms and abbreviations

DG ECHO	European Commission’s Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
DGs	Directorate Generals
DRGs	(European Union) Disaster Resilience Goals
DRM	Disaster risk management
EC	European Commission
ECA	Europe and Central Asia
EOI	Expression of interest
EU	European Union
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
TAFF	Technical Assistance Financing Facility
UCPM	Union Civil Protection Mechanism
UCPKN	Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network

TAFF Contact: UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org

Introduction

The European Union (EU) and its Members of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) are vulnerable to a wide range of hazards including earthquakes, floods, landslides, wildfires, heatwaves, and other extreme weather events. Between 1980 and 2020, natural disasters affected nearly 50 million people in the EU, and caused on average an economic loss of €12 billion per year. With climate change these events are increasing in number and becoming more intense and frequent, causing significant impacts on the economies in the region, on the physical infrastructure, but more importantly on people. Without climate adaptation interventions, more than 400,000 jobs could be lost annually by 2050, with the overall cost of climate-related extreme weather reaching [€170 billion](#) by the end of the century.

Strengthening disaster resilience by enhancing prevention and preparedness is a priority for the European Commission (EC). In 2020, the EC approved the European Green Deal as a set of policy initiatives with the overarching aim of making the EU climate neutral in 2050. In 2023, EU-wide Disaster Resilience Goals (DRGs) were adopted by the EC,¹ in the form of a Recommendation to Member States² and a Communication to the Parliament and the Council.³ In November 2022, the Council of the EU called for proactive crisis response, stressing the importance of effective disaster risk reduction (DRR), anticipatory action, and risk-informed development.⁴

The Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (TAFF) is a partnership between the European Commission through its Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the World Bank, and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).⁵ TAFF forms part of a range of initiatives focusing on prevention and preparedness led by DG ECHO and the UCPM in line with the above EC policy framework. Per the UCPM financing decision for 2024, the TAFF budget for 2024 is €4 million.

TAFF is a mechanism which allows national civil protection and disaster risk management (DRM) authorities to access technical assistance and global knowledge on prevention and preparedness to support country efforts on DRM. TAFF is aligned with:

- The EU-wide DRGs, which focus on enhancing UCPM response capacity, strengthening crisis and emergency preparedness of civil protection, improved risk analytics, anticipation and planning, enhanced early warning systems, and increased risk awareness of the population.
- The World Bank's strategy in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region, which focuses on supporting a green transition, building and strengthening institutions, and boosting resilience.
- The GFDRR mission to support communities and countries to reduce risk, prepare for, and recover from disaster by integrating DRM and climate change adaptation into development strategies and programs, and contributing to country efforts in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Objectives

TAFF's overarching objective is to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of countries under the UCPM for disaster prevention and preparedness.

This will be achieved by focusing on the following specific objectives:

1 European Commission. 2023. European Union Disaster Resilience Goals. DG ECHO. February 8, 2023. [Link](#).

2 European Commission. 2023. Commission Recommendation of 8.2.2023 on Union disaster resilience goals C(2023) 400 final. Brussels. DG ECHO. [Link](#).

3 European Commission. 2023. Communication from the Commission European Union Disaster Resilience Goals: Acting together to deal with future emergencies COM(2023) 61 final. Brussels. DG ECHO. [Link](#).

4 Council of the EU Press release 28 November 2022. [Link](#).

5 GFDRR is a multi-donor partnership and grant making facility housed within the World Bank. It helps communities and countries understand their climate and disaster risks, reduce and prepare, and to recover after an event.

- To strengthen the capacity of civil protection and other relevant competent authorities in scaling up disaster and climate resilience, in line with the EU DRGs and the European Green Deal, as well as national priorities.
- To support investments in disaster prevention and preparedness through the development of a project pipeline and enhanced administrative capacity.
- To improve the knowledge base on DRM, and facilitate the sharing of knowledge, good practices, and information.

Priorities

 Anticipate	 Prepare	 Alert	 Secure
Improving anticipation and disaster risk management planning to proactively address potential hazards.	Raising risk awareness and preparedness levels among the population to effectively respond to emergencies.	Enhancing early warning and hydro-meteorological systems for timely and accurate information dissemination.	Strengthening national civil protection systems to strengthen to prevent and prepare for disasters.

Types of activities

Activities include various types of analytics, technical studies and recommendations for plans and strategies, piloting of activities, and capacity-building/training activities to strengthen the capacity of civil protection and other relevant competent authorities under the UCPM in scaling up investments contributing to disaster and climate resilience. A more detailed list is provided below and in a separate Annex 5.

The expected budget for each activity will range between €250,000–€750,000, with an implementation timeline of 12 to 24 months (potential extension to maximum 30 months in total). Activities outside this range will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Anticipate	Prepare	Alert	Secure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk analytics for DRM planning • Portfolio-wide vulnerability assessment; Network assessments/ criticality & vulnerability assessments; Exposure mapping • Pre-feasibility level economic assessments (i.e., CBA) • Recommendations for prioritization frameworks • National DRM/DRR, prevention or preparedness strategies/plans • Seismic resilience & EE, nature-based solutions & green infrastructure; diagnostic building regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support piloting of risk awareness activities (Analytics and related communication outputs, as well as support in dissemination) • Communication strategies/actions plans, tools to disseminate risk information to support inclusive DRM • Capacity-building related to improved risk awareness • Promote open access to, and utilization of, risk information data, tools, and analytics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical reviews/technical assessments (diagnostics, proposed roadmaps, and advisory input to action plans) of EWS and national hydromet • System review of climate services provided vis -à-vis user needs, coordination, etc. • Review of hydrometeorological investments, sharing of good practice and examples • Technical reviews focusing on enhancing human and technical aspects of public warning, sharing of good practice and examples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparedness and response analytics (i.e., Ready2Respond) • Recovery technical reviews & recommendations (i.e., post-disaster financing/financing for recovery, damage & loss systems or methodologies, inclusive & gender responsive post disaster assessments, recovery planning frameworks, etc. • Trainings, e.g., first responders how to interact with people with disabilities • On demand - GRADE assessment (2-3 weeks delivery)

Implementation arrangements

TAFF is funded by the EU and administratively managed by the GFDRR. Activities are implemented by World Bank teams from the ECA Disaster Risk Management and Urban Resilience Unit of the World Bank, and with the technical support of the GFDRR's global experts. Projects are carried out in coordination with the respective national counterparts, with DG ECHO, and relevant stakeholders involved in disaster and climate resilience in the region.

Implementation principles

Activities implemented will contribute and be aligned with country-specific needs, the global Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the EU DRGs, and the EU-World Bank shared priorities for green, resilient, inclusive and sustainable development practices. The implementation of activities by World Bank ECA DRM and GFDRR will be conducted taking into consideration the priorities and activities of DG ECHO to ensure added-value and complementarity of the implemented activities under TAFF, and to avoid duplication. TAFF projects are subject to quality-review by the World Bank/GFDRR, and reporting, monitoring, and evaluation procedures.

All activities under the TAFF will be designed taking into account the following operating principles:

- **Promote disaster and climate resilience and sustainable development** – as part of that, also the greening of civil protection sector,⁶ in line with shared global, EU, and World Bank efforts.
- **Build country capacity and sustainability** – the TAFF will aim to support countries develop new studies, methodologies, assessments, etc., and it will do so by relying on country knowledge and building capacity on the beneficiary side for continuing the project in good conditions, once the technical assistance activities end.
- **Provide added value to countries' DRM program and coordination with other actors** – e.g., strategic value of activities in the country's DRM program, and close coordination with technical and financial partners already operating in the country on DRM issues.
- **Integrate transversal issues**, such as social inclusion and gender as a cross-cutting element of the TAFF activities, including in its trainings, tools, and knowledge products to the extent possible.
- **Do no harm**, i.e., reduce to the maximum the environmental and social negative impacts of the projects.
- **Promote dissemination of activities and findings** through the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (UCPKN).

Non eligible activities: In line with World Bank policies for Bank-executed activities, non-eligible activities include the drafting of legislation, risk assessments for specific assets, feasibility-level studies such as engineering assessments at asset level, developing technical specifications, prioritization of specific investments (asset level), purchase of goods, software development of online applications, websites, or software, etc. Also, civil works or purchase of equipment are not eligible under World Bank-executed technical assistance. The World Bank does not engage in providing support on nuclear energy/management of nuclear hazards.

⁶ European Commission, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Akitis, E., Arnold, F., Davies, S. et al., *Study on greening the Union Civil Protection Mechanism – Final report – Main report*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, [Link](#).

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for TAFF Component 1 activities, beneficiaries and affiliated entities must:

- be legal public entities (public bodies)
- be the national level civil protection authority or a national authority with DRM responsibilities of eligible countries
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - **EU Member States:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden
 - **UCPM Participating Countries:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine
 - **Other countries:** Georgia and Kosovo⁷ in view of their ongoing efforts to join the UCPM.

Selection criteria and prioritization principles (see separate **Annex 3**) to ensure appropriate targeting and effectiveness of implemented activities.

Selection of activities

Eligible countries may request country-specific technical assistance through an Expression of Interest (EOI) per agreed templates (see separate Annex 3). Based on evaluation criteria described below, a shortlist of EOIs shall be prepared by the World Bank and reviewed with DG ECHO at TAFF annual review and planning meeting. For approved shortlisted EOIs, technical assistance projects are developed and later implemented by the World Bank and GFDRR. The beneficiary will show its commitment by signing a letter of intent, i.e., before being involved in the implementation of the project. The technical content will be developed and agreed in coordination with the national counterpart(s). The project design will integrate the knowledge generation and sharing arrangements to ensure that the beneficiary country retains full ownership of the project and its results. The development and implementation will be done in consultation with relevant stakeholders and DG ECHO, to ensure alignment, added value, and avoid any duplication. The EOIs will be accepted on annual basis within defined timeframes. Proposals outside this range, particularly due to emergency situations, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The evaluation criteria focus on (1) eligibility conditions (Yes/No questions) and several key aspects including (2) quality; (3) relevance, and (4) impact. The assessment score for criteria 2, 3, and 4 takes into consideration a minimum pass score for each and across. In case of over-demand, additional criteria will be applied for shortlisting of EOIs. The evaluation will only consider information provided in the EOI template as submitted. Details on the application of the criteria are included in a separate Annex 4.

⁷ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Timeline

The indicative timeline for the selection and implementation of activities is the following:

- **29 February 2024: Launch of the Call for EOI** by DG ECHO and World Bank/GFDRR.
- **18 April 2024: Deadline for submission of EOIs** by Countries per Template (see separate Annex 3).
- **18 April – 30 April 2024: Shortlisting** by World Bank/GFDRR per agreed criteria.
- **16 May 2024: Approval of shortlist** as part of TAFF annual work plan and budget by DG ECHO.
- **20 May 2024: Official notification on shortlisting** by DG ECHO and World Bank/GFDRR.
- **20 May–June 2024: Proposals developed** by World Bank/GFDRR for shortlisted proposals/countries in coordination with respective counterparts and stakeholders.
- **July–September: Launch and implementation of activities** by the World Bank/GFDRR teams in coordination with respective counterparts and stakeholders.

Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

TAFF follows the standard evaluation requirements outlined in the World Bank Group Financial Framework Partnership Agreement between the World Bank and the EU. A report will be published yearly.

Communication and visibility

All activities financed under the TAFF will clearly indicate that they have received funding from the EU; all program products and events financed under this initiative will carry EU, WB, and GFDRR logos. A dedicated webpage is available for TAFF under the [UCPKN website](#) and the [GFDRR website](#). Key outputs and information will be shared via the UCPKN and may be conducted in collaboration with existing UCPKN initiatives.

Beneficiary organizations shall commit to disseminate the relevant outputs of their projects on their own websites and through their own information channels.

Submission of an Expression of Interest

The Call for EOIs will be published on the TAFF webpage hosted on the [GFDRR website](#) and [DG ECHO website](#). In order to be admissible, your EOI should be submitted to UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org, within the deadline stipulated in the call. It is necessary to strictly follow the template for the EOI.

Any questions about the template for the EOI (see separate **Annex 3**) or the procedure to follow can be addressed to UCPM_TAFF@worldbank.org. However, applicants are asked to send your questions at least seven days before the submission deadline.